GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:156
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
SINKING OF SHIPS
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ships sank in the vicinity of Indian ports during the last six months;

(b) whether the Indian Coast Guard has sought a legislation to prevent the entry of old tankers into Indian waters as a precautionary measures to prevent oil spills;

(c) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 156 FOR 11.12.2003

Three ships sank in the vicinity of Indian Ports during the last six months.

The Coast Guard had proposed new inspection regulations, to prevent operation of unseaworthy ships in Indian waters to prevent casualties, navigational hazards and marine environment damage.

Several Conventions and Protocols dealing with the subject of ship safety and environment protection have come into force and have been ratified by India. Some of these Convention/Protocols are Safety of Life at Sea Convention, 1974 and its Protocols of 1974 & 1988, Collision Regulations 1972, Tonnage Convention 1969, MARPOL Convention 1973/1978,Standard of Training, Certification and Watch Keeping 1978 and its 1995 Code etc. The Safety Management Code (ISM Code) is applicable to all types of ships. Besides normal surveys, the ships are now also subjected to Safety System audits.Therefore, the proposal was not accepted as Indian Maritime Administration has adequate provisions available, to deal with question of ship safety.